

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 018333
ORIGIN AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 ARA-10 COME-00
ISO-00 TRSE-00 /043 R

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R 240020Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP

SUBJECT: CHEESE

REFERENCE: OCT 21, 1977 WADSWORTH LTR TO RUDBECK

1. SAME US IMPORTER WHO "COOKED UP" THE GOYA CHEESE BUSINESS
FROM ARGENTINA IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO IMPORT WHAT HE CALLS
"GRATED MOZZARELLA."

2. MOZZARELLA IS NORMALLY TOO HIGH IN MOSTURE FOR GRATING. BUT
EXPERTS SAY THERE IS OUTSIDE POSSIBILITY THAT MOSTURE CONTENT
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COULD BE REDUCED SUFFICIENTLY TO MAKE GRATING POSSIBLE.

3. MOZZARELLA IS SUBJECT TO QUOTA ONLY IF FOB COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
PRICE IS BELOW PRICEBREAK, CURRENTLY \$1.05 PER POUND. EXPERTS
BELIEVE THERE IS POSSIBILITY, THOUGH REMOTE, THAT ADDED COST
OF REDUCING MOISTURE TO DESIRED LEVEL AND THEN GRATING
ARGENTINE MOZZARELLA COULD BRING FOB PRICE OVER PRICEBREAK.

4. IMPORTER IN QUESTION IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO ENTER FIRST SHIPMENT OF 5,000 KG. CUSTOMS SERVICE HAS ANALYZED SAMPLE AND IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE PRODUCT WAS MADE FROM HARD ITALIAN-TYPE GRATING CHEESE (WHICH WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ABSOLUTE QUOTA RESTRICTIONS WHATEVER THE PRICE) RATHER THAN MOZZARELLA. BUT TO HELP THEM MAKE FINAL DECISION THEY ARE ASKING USDA TO CHECK WITH MANUFACTURER AND, IF APPROPRIATE, SHIPPER IN BUENOS AIRES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CHECK FIRST, IF POSSIBLE, WITH MANUFACTURER (GRATER): LACTERIA SUIZA S.A., MARTIN RODRIGUEZ 444, BUENOS AIRES, AND THEN, IF APPROPRIATE, WITH SHIPPER: RATTO-DELFINO Y CIA S. R.L., AV. PTE R.S. PENA 65L, BUENOS AIRES. WILL APPRECIATE ANY INFO YOU CAN SUPPLY VIA TOFAS OR CABLE RE STATEMENT OF ABOVE NAMED REGARDING TYPE OF CHEESE USED TO MANUFACTURE PRODUCT FOR SHIPMENT IN QUESTION.

6. FYI: U.S. IMPORTER IS R. W. FAEHNDRICK OF FAMOUS IMPORTS AND WM. FAEHNDRICK, INC., N.Y., MAJOR IMPETUS BEHIND GOYA PROBLEM COVERED IN REF. CUSTOMS AND USDA SUSPECT THIS IS ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT ITALIAN-TYPE GRATED CHEESE QUOTA USING NEW APPROACH SINCE IMPORTATION OF SO-CALLED GOYA HAS BEEN STOPPED AS PER REF. VANCE

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